



NEWS RELEASE

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District: District 2 - Redding
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS COMPLETES TRAFFIC SAFETY PROJECT ON STATE ROUTE 44 NEAR LASSEN NATIONAL PARK

Redding – Caltrans announced today the completion of a \$7.7 million curve realignment project – four months ahead of schedule - that will improve safety on State Route 44 in Shasta County. The project was financed primarily (\$5.7 million) by President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

"I am committed to doing everything within my power to provide relief to our unemployed and get Californians back to work," said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "My administration will continue to work around the clock to push Recovery Act funding into our economy as quickly as possible to help create jobs and put California on the road to economic recovery."

This project, which was a partnership between Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration, with assistance from Lassen National Forest, is located on State Route 44 just west of Lassen Volcanic National Park at the junction of State Route 89. The project made the road safer by realigning highway curves, widening shoulders, extending an existing truck-climbing lane, and increasing the unobstructed area beyond the edge of the roadway.

"This project is a great example of using partnerships to improve the state's highway system," said Caltrans Director Cindy McKim. "Projects such as this are increasing the safety of our roads while providing jobs to Californians when they need them the most."

"We are delighted to have had the opportunity to put people to work in these tough economic times," said Ed Kernaghan, Vice President of J.F. Shea Construction of Redding, the project's contractor.

Under Governor Schwarzenegger's leadership, California has obligated nearly \$2.5 billion in Recovery Act funding to 965 highway, local street and job training transportation projects statewide. For more information on the Recovery Act visit: <http://recovery.ca.gov/>

Please call the Caltrans District 2 Public Information Office at 530-225-3260 for more information.

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NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news.htm>.